



LIBRARY

Urban District Council of Newton-le-Willows

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1948

Urban District Council of Newton-le-Willows

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1948

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR S. C. GASKIN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS E. CROUCHLEY, J.P.

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

W. H. J. BROWNE.

Health Committee :

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR T. B. BALL, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. CARR.

Members :

Councillor A. E. BARNETT

„ MRS. E. CROUCHLEY, J.P.

„ C. DAVIES

„ J. MORRIS

„ E. J. THOMPSON

„ C. L. TYRER

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

(from 1st November, 1948)

A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

* Chief Sanitary Inspector :

L. M. BOOTH, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

* Additional Sanitary Inspector :

K. HILTON, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

M. & C.W. Superintendent :

(to 4th July, 1948)

W. C. LATHAM.

Health Visitors :

(to 4th July, 1948)

MISS I. HEAP, S.R.N., S.C.N., H.V. (R.S.I.)

MRS. M. PARKER, S.R.N., S.C.N. (part time).

Clerks :

MISS D. RILEY (M. & C.W. to 4th July, 1948)

MISS B. TWISS (Sanitary Inspector's)

* Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspectors (R.S.I.).

**The Chairman and Members of the
Newton-le-Willows Urban District Council.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my report on the health of the Urban District during the year 1948.

It will be appreciated that numerous changes have occurred during the year, both in the duties and responsibilities of the Council, by the operation on 5th July of the National Health Service Act 1946, and in the Staff of the Public Health Department, relating to the foregoing legislation.

Prior to my appointment as Medical Officer of Health on 1st November, by agreement with the County Council in accordance with the Scheme approved by the Minister of Health under the provisions of the Health Service Act, the medical supervision of the department was most ably undertaken by Dr. W. C. Latham, in conjunction with his work as Medical Superintendent of Maternity and Child Welfare. By virtue of the provisions of Regulations made under the same Act, Miss I. Heap and Miss D. Riley became transferred officers, passing from the Service of the Council to that of the Lancashire County Council, as the Local Health Authority : and at the same time the responsibilities of the Council in relation to Ambulance Services, Maternity and Child Welfare, Vaccination and Immunisation, the Notification of Births, and responsibility for Statistics relating to Infectious Diseases, passed to the Health Authority.

In general it may be said with confidence that little or no disruption of any of these services to the public occurred, the change-over proceeding with smoothness and flexibility, largely as the result of the closest co-operation and the cordial goodwill of both Local Authorities and of the Officers concerned.

It is very pleasing to note that the year has been notable in that no confirmed case of Diphtheria occurred in the District, for the first time on record ; no Maternal Deaths were recorded ; there were no cases of Puerperal Fever, or of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and the general death rate has been low.

From the personal standpoint I enter the service of the Council in the capacity of M.O.H., having been closely associated with the District over a period of very many years—from 1927—and being fortunate in having received the most cordial help from both members of the Council and from the Officers of the Public Health Staff.

Perhaps I may be permitted here to express my confidence that this happy state of affairs will continue in the service and interests of the public of the Urban District.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres : 3103.

Population.—Census, 1931 : 20,150. Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1948 : 21,410.

Births belonging to district ....	....	....	334
Deaths belonging to district ....	....	....	213
Natural increase of population ....	....	....	121

Number of inhabited houses.—(a) Census, 1931 : 4,862 ; (b) End of 1948, according to rate books : 6,174.

Rateable value : £103,668. Sum represented by a penny rate : £396.

Social Conditions, including the Chief Industries carried on in the area.—Residential, small proportion of total. Light and Heavy Engineering, Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery, Raincoat Manufacturing, Bleaching, Dyeing and Calico Printing. Small number in Agriculture.

None of the above appear to have given rise to any significant increase of injuries or disabilities of an industrial character throughout the year.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births :

			Total.		Male.		Female.
Legitimate	....	....	334	....	165	....	169
Illegitimate	....	....	12	....	6	....	6
<hr/>							
Total	....	....	346	....	171	....	175
<hr/>							

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid 1948 16.1

			Total.		Male.		Female.
Stillbirths	....	....	6	....	2	....	4
Deaths	....	....	213	....	113	....	100

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 17

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.9

			Death rate per 1,000 total deaths (live and still) births		
Deaths from Puerperal causes—					
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other Puerperal causes	Nil.
Total	Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	....	57
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births....				53
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				166

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	40
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			....	3
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....		....	2
Population—Estimate, mid 1948	....	21,410		

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respirat'y system	Death Rate from Cancer	Mat'nal M'tality Rate per 1,000		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Live Births
					Live Births	Total (live and still) births	
Mean of 5 yrs. 1943-47 ...	17.6	11.7	0.45	1.79	1.63	1.56	61
Year—1947 ...	18.7	12.4	0.61	1.59	2.50	2.40	57
1948 ...	16.1	9.9	0.32	1.86	Nil.	Nil.	57
Increase or decrease in 1948 on 5 years avge....							
1943-1947...	—1.5	—1.8	—0.13	+0.07	—1.63	—1.56	—4
Previous yr....	—2.6	—2.5	—0.29	+0.27	—2.50	—2.40	Nil

Comparison of Birth Rates, Death Rates and Analysis of Mortality.

						Newton-le-Willows		England and Wales
						1948	1947	1948
						Rate per 1,000 Population		
Births—Live	...	...	...	...	...	16.1	18.7	17.9
	Still	...	...	...	...	0.28	0.75	0.42
Deaths—All causes	...	...	...	...	...	9.9	12.4	10.8
	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...					—	—	0.00
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0.14	—	0.02
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	0.04	0.00
	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	0.03
	Small Pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis...					—	0.04	0.01
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.32	0.28	0.41
A dash signifies there were no deaths								
Notifications—								
	Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	0.01
	Paratyphoid Fever		...	...	...	—	—	0.01
	Cerebro-spinal Fever		...	...	...	—	0.09	0.03
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3.12	1.59	1.73
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	9.10	2.54	3.42
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	0.09	0.08
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0.32	0.47	0.21
	Small Pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	0.00
	Measles	...	...	...	...	10.23	10.86	9.34
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2.34	2.35	0.73
	Ac. Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	0.18	0.04
	Ac. Polio-encephalitis		...	...	...	—	0.04	0.00
A dash signifies there were no notifications								
						Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
Deaths—All causes under 1 year of age	...				...	57.	57.	34.
	Enteritis and Diarrhoea				...			
	Under 2 years of age	...			...	5.77	17.31	3.3
Maternal Mortality—								
	Abortion with Sepsis	...	...		...	—	—	0.11
	Abortion without Sepsis	...	...		...	—	—	0.05
	Puerperal Infections	...	...		...	—	—	0.13
	Other causes	...	...	...	...	—	2.50	0.73
	Total	...	...	...	...	—	2.50	1.02
Notifications—								
	Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...			...	—	—	6.89

The ward distribution of the live births was :—

Wards.					Males.		Females.	Total.
Town Hall	....	....	....	....	26	....	19	45
Viaduct	....	...	....	....	17	....	19	36
Crow Lane	....	....	....	....	31	....	30	61
Newton	....	....	....	....	15	....	10	25
Wargrave	....	....	....	....	29	....	38	67

Total born in district	....	....	118	....	116	....	234
Born outside district	....	....	47	....	53	....	100
Total			165		169		334

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the district was 127. Five of these were of non-residents, and have been transferred to the districts in which they usually resided. 91 deaths belonging to this area died in other districts.

The distribution of the deaths was :—

Wards.				Males.		Females.		Total.
Town Hall	....	....	....	24	....	18	....	42
Viaduct	....	....	....	20	....	15	....	35
Crow Lane	....	....	....	23	....	17	....	40
Newton	....	....	....	13	....	19	....	32
Wargrave	....	....	....	33	....	31	....	64
Totals			....	113		100		213

The distribution according to disease was, as stated in the Registrar General's return :—

Causes of Death.				Male.		Female.		Total.
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	1	....	2	....	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis	....	....	....	6	....	1	....	7
Other forms of T.B.	....	....	....	0	....	1	....	1
Syphilitic Diseases	....	....	....	3	....	1	....	4
Cancer: Buc. Cav. and Oesophagus (M)								
Uterus (F)	....	....	....	2	....	4	....	6
Cancer : Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	4	....	1	....	5
Cancer : All other sites	....	....	....	18	....	11	....	26
Diabetes	....	....	....	0	....	2	....	2
Intra-Cranial Vas. Lesions.	....	....	....	13	....	15	....	28
Heart Diseases	....	....	....	30	....	28	....	58
Other Circulatory Diseases	....	....	....	7	....	4	....	11
Bronchitis	....	....	....	6	....	2	....	8
Pneumonia	....	....	....	3	....	4	....	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	0	....	2	....	2
Ulcer Stomach and Duodenum....	....	....	....	0	....	1	....	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	2
Other digestive diseases....	....	....	....	0	....	2	....	2
Nephritis	....	....	....	1	....	4	....	5
Premature birth	....	....	....	2	....	2	....	4
Congen. Mal., Birth Inj. Inf. Disease	....	....	....	2	....	3	....	5
Suicide	....	....	....	1	....	0	....	1
Road Traffic Accidents	....	....	....	2	....	1	....	3
Other violent causes	....	....	....	4	....	1	....	5
All other causes	....	....	....	7	....	7	....	14
Total			....	113	....	100	....	213

SECTION 2.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Until 4th July, Pathological specimens were examined at the Emergency Medical Services Laboratory at St. Helens, or at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and samples for Bacteriological and Chemical were also submitted to the latter. After 5th July all went to the Regional Hospital Laboratory, Monsall Green, Manchester. Samples for qualitative analysis were submitted, as in previous years, to the Public Analyst at Preston.
- (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—The Council owned two ambulances for general cases and the Warrington County Borough supplied one for infectious cases. After the appointed date the Council continued to operate the service on behalf of the Lancashire County Council.
- (c) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held at Latham House, Cross Lane, on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Ante-natal Clinics are held there on Wednesdays. Until the appointed day the Urban District Council was an autonomous authority for these purposes, which later became the responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

School children receive advice and treatment for minor ailments, ophthalmic, orthopædic and dental conditions at the County Council Clinic, The Gables, Crow Lane West.

- (d) **Hospitals.**—There is a small General Hospital, the War Memorial Cottage Hospital, Bradlegh Road, maintained by voluntary contributions until the appointed day when it became one of the hospitals governed by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

The former Isolation Hospital, also in Bradlegh Road, was also transferred to the Board but was not used during the whole of the year. Infectious cases requiring hospital treatment were admitted to the Warrington Infectious Diseases Hospital.

- (e) **Midwifery Service.**—The Lancashire County Council is the Supervising Authority and there are four midwives residing and practising in the district. The administration of this Service became on the appointed day a responsibility of No. 10 Divisional Health Committee.

SECTION 3.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—Early in the year it was found that the amount of water in the Council's wells at Southworth Road was insufficient to supply the needs of the district. Temporary arrangements were made for an additional supply to be obtained from British Railways and additional sources of supply to meet the needs of the district and to end the temporary arrangements are being sought.

The town's water is from deep wells and the Railway water from mixed sources—part upland surface and part deep wells.

6,171 dwelling houses, housing a population of 21,399 persons, are supplied with water from public mains. Three houses with a total of 11 occupants, draw supplies from private wells and springs.

All new houses have been connected to the town's water mains.

The water is of a high degree of purity and, though very hard, is also very satisfactory chemically.

16 bacteriological examinations of the new water, and 20 of the water going into supply after treatment, were made and were all highly satisfactory. The same applied to the two chemical analyses of the raw and one of the treated water.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Extensions have been made to all new houses. Construction of the Sankey Valley sewer has commenced but it has not yet reached this district.

Rivers and Streams.—Pollution of the several main streams running through the district from Ashton, Golborne, Haydock and St. Helens continues to varying degrees.

Closet Accommodation.—Every privy and pail in the district has been converted to the water carriage system, except the few which are beyond reach of a sewer, are below sewer level, or are isolated by streams, railway lines, or the canal.

Number of privy middens	....	....	....	40
Number of closets attached to these middens				55
Number of pail closets	....	....	....	35
Number of houses on water carriage system	....			6,084

There are no waste water closets and no dry ashpits in the district.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage by motor vehicles and disposal of the former, by controlled tipping are supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

No regular cleansing of cesspools is undertaken.

Scavenging, snow removal, gully emptying, etc., are carried out by the Surveyor's department.

SECTION 4.—HOUSING.

1,544 houses are owned by the Council, 298 of which have been built in the post-war period.

During the year 50 permanent prefabricated houses, 92 traditional permanent houses have been erected by the local authority ; 4 traditional permanent houses by other bodies or persons.

A scheme of 64 houses was in hand at the end of the year and two further schemes of 50 and 20 houses respectively were contemplated.

The number of houses needed to relieve the shortage, can only be estimated. Approximately 100 houses are needed to replace unfit dwellings ; 50 for overcrowded families ; and 550 to 600 for families living in apartments.

The types of house built between 60 and 120 years ago, are generally of sound construction but lacking amenities such as food stores, hot water, coal and other storage accommodation, as well as being below bye law standard in varying degrees.

There is also a number of cottages, with ages ranging from 150 to 300 years, which have nothing to recommend them except that they are picturesque and kept in reasonable repair.

Back to back houses are 2 in number ; back to earth houses 1 ; and single type (blank rear wall) number 3.

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	47
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	.... ....	66
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	.... ....	386
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding discovered during year	.... ....	58
(c)		Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year		15
		Number of persons concerned in such cases	.... ....	126

SECTION 5.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**

All cowsheds and milkshops were inspected at least twice a year and were generally in a satisfactory condition.

Supervision of the production and distribution of this staple article of food was given all attention necessary to ensure as far as possible that only clean, wholesome milk was being retailed in the district.

Tuberculous Milk :

Number of samples submitted for biological test ....	....	32
Result—Positive	3	
Negative	29	

Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of samples submitted ....	....	....	....	32
Satisfactory	27			
Unsatisfactory....	5			

Details of the positive results were forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and the infected cows were ultimately slaughtered.

Improvements were obtained, after follow up visits, in the cases of the unsatisfactory bacteriological samples.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**

All meat retailed in the district continued to be supplied by the Ministry of Food from the Leigh distribution centre.

Except for occasional slaughter by pig-keepers of their own pigs for home consumption no slaughtering took place within the district.

All premises used for food preparation, butchers, grocers, ice cream manufacturers and vendors, bakehouses, etc., were kept under observation and inspected regularly.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

(c) **Adulteration.**

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and your Sanitary Inspectors are Sampling Officers.

30 informal and 10 formal samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, County Offices, Preston.

Informal.

Article.	Number taken.
Sponge pudding mixture	2
Gelatine	1
Oatmeal	2
Dried fruits	3
Jelly crystals	1
Margarine	2
Butter	2
Sugar	2
Sausages	1
Canned Peas	1
Farinoca	1
Cooking Fat	1
Barley	1
Bacon	1
S.R. Flour	1
Cheese	1
Almond Substitute	1
Lemonade	1
Cocoa	1
Cephos	1
Tea	2
Coffee Cubes	1
Total	30

The oil content of the Almond Substitute was only 3.5% and it was sold loose in contravention of the Food Substitutes (Control) Order 1944. The Food Enforcement Officer was informed and appropriate action was taken by him.

The other samples were reported on as genuine.

Formal.—Ten formal samples of milk were taken and were genuine.

SECTION 6.**PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Hospital facilities for the treatment of cases of infectious disease were provided by agreement at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Warrington. 46 cases were admitted to hospital compared with 59 during 1947.

Measles and Whooping Cough were epidemic during the year. The incidence of Scarlet Fever was below average until November when there was a big increase in cases of a mild type.

It is pleasing to be able to record that no case of Diphtheria was confirmed during the year.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases Notified													Hospitals	
	Years													Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district
	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	67	1	1	3	5	9	34	9	2	3	—	—	—	40	—
Measles	219	11	30	32	35	43	64	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	195	21	32	30	29	32	48	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	1
Ac. Pneumonia	50	6	6	2	3	2	3	3	—	7	2	9	7	3	3
Dysentery	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Erysipelas	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	—	—	—
Totals	542	40	69	67	72	86	149	17	3	14	4	14	7	46	4

Comparison of Principle Infectious Diseases, 1944-1948.

Disease.	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Diphtheria	13	4	3	2	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	97	45	38	34	67
Measles	91	274	260	231	219
Whooping Cough	192	30	78	54	195
Pneumonia	12	41	40	51	50

Distribution of Infectious Diseases	Town Hall	Viaduct	Crow Lane	Newton	Wargrave	Total
Measles ...	60	27	68	27	37	219
Whooping Cough ...	36	30	62	23	44	195
Erysipelas ...	1	2	1	1	2	7
Scarlet Fever ...	12	12	16	8	19	67
Dysentery ...	—	—	4	—	—	4
T.B. Lungs ...	2	3	1	1	3	10
T.B., other forms ...	—	2	—	1	—	3
Pneumonia, Primary	9	6	10	7	18	50
Totals ...	120	82	162	68	123	555

Diphtheria Immunisation.

	Under 5 yrs.	5 to 14 yrs.	Total.
Immunised 1st Jan. to 5th July, 1948....	134	8	152
Inmunised total	728	1741	2469
Total in age group (Mid 1948)....	1726	3057	4783
Percentage of protected	44.77%	56.95%	51.62%

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1948 :—

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
35	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
55	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
				5	5	—	3	5	1	1	—
Totals	...	...	...	10		3		6		1	

SECTION 7.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Until the 5th July the Council was the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, clinics held as stated earlier in this report, being well attended by mothers and infants, often accompanied by other children of the family under school age. Attendances were also made by expectant mothers.

There was one full time and one part time Health Visitor, and all infants, nursing mothers and other children under 5 years of age, were visited by the Nurses as frequently as possible.

Ante-Natal Work.

Ante-natal clinics were held each Wednesday afternoon.

No. of women who attended ante-natal clinics during the period									
1st January to 4th July, 1948	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	101
Total number of attendances during the period 1st January to									
4th July, 1948	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	345
Abnormal cases were referred to the Liverpool Maternity Hospital.									

Post-Natal Work.

No special post-natal sessions were held, but mothers requiring examination and advice attend the ante-natal clinic.

No. of women who attended during the period	....	2
Total number of attendances	....	3

Accommodation for expectant and nursing mothers was available at Warrington General Hospital, Victoria Park Nursing Home, Liverpool Maternity Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, Home of the Good Samaritan, Warrington, and Peaseley Cross Hospital, St. Helens.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, provided accommodation for young children requiring hospital beds.

One home help was employed part time for Maternity cases.

Proprietary brands of foods and milk for expectant and nursing mothers, and milk for infants, were sold at the Welfare Centre at cost price. In addition to Vitamin Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice were distributed at the Child Welfare Clinic by officials of the Ministry of Food.

The Health Visitor who was appointed also to supervise children coming under the Child Life Protection Acts and Regulations, paid visits in connection with this work.

Attendances at Ante-natal and Child Welfare Clinics

(1st January to 4th July inclusive)

There were as under :

Attendances by infants	....	....	....	3,911
Attendances by other children	....	...		960
Attendances by mothers	....	....	....	4,113

Four children were referred to the School Clinic, 1 to the Orthopædic, 2 to the Ophthalmic, and 1 to the Dental sections.

344 attendances were recorded at the Ante-natal Clinic, including those made by 74 new cases. 6 cases were sent to Maternity Hospitals.

Visiting in the Home.

813 visits were made to infants, 1,744 to children between 1 and 5 years of age, and 22 to expectant mothers.

SECTION 8.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	49	37	3	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	50	25	1	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	9	—	—
Totals	102	71	4	—

(2) **Cases in which Defects were found.**

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	remedied (4)	Referred :		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	1	(Factory now closed)			—
(b) unsuitable or defective... ..	3	2	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	2	—	—
Total	7	5	2	1	1

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.

**REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1948.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The National Health Service Act, 1946 came into operation on 5th July as a consequence of which the Ambulance Service became the responsibility of the County Council, although it continued to be operated by the Department on agency arrangements for the remainder of the year ; and the Isolation Hospital, which was closed for the reception of patients in June, 1947, was taken over by the Regional Hospital Board in November.

Apart from these changes the sanitary inspectors' duties were not varied by the Act.

There has been no change of staff in my section of the Department during the year, and my very best thanks are due to each of them not only for the loyal assistance they have rendered, but for the happy spirit in which they have met the heavy burden of their duties.

This report would be incomplete without reference to Councillor T. B. Ball, J.P., who was Chairman of the Health Committee from before my appointment here in 1935 until his death early in January, 1949. His many sterling qualities endeared him to all members of the staff, and his knowledge of, and interest in, all matters affecting the health of the public made our long personal association both happy and productive of benefit to the community. The success of the department was due, in a large measure, to him.

I appreciate to the full the helpful co-operation and assistance rendered by him, by all the Members of the Health Committee, and by Officers of the Council, and desire to record my sincere thanks.

1. Housing.

The shortages of building labour and materials showed signs of easing but considerable delays in compliance with notices served were unavoidable. Whilst the frustrations of the late years of the war and of the early post-war years regarding repairs were gradually disappearing, those in connection with unfit houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense, and abatement of overcrowding, continued to grow. The earliest possible opportunity of commencing the removal of the occupants of insanitary dwellings and of overcrowded houses is eagerly awaited.

Partly due to the difficulties in connection with all aspects of the housing problems, the housing section of the work has received a

great deal of attention, but I feel that the other sections, though not being neglected, have not received the attention they merit, in spite of the considerable amount of work which has been performed outside office hours.

2. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—All Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops were inspected periodically and samples for biological tests and bacteriological examinations were taken.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—There is no slaughterhouse within the district but self suppliers' pigs, slaughtered on their own premises, were examined at the time of slaughter on request.

Premises for the preparation and storage of foods ; butchers', grocers', greengrocers' and fishmongers' shops were inspected periodically and special visits were made when necessary.

The hygienic standard is high, but many of the premises are far from being ideal.

Foodstuffs condemned :—

Nature.					Quantities.		
					Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcase of pig (T.B.)	....	....	....	....	1	3	0
Wet Fish	....	....	....	....	—	3	12
Cheese	....	....	....	....	1	2	4
Fruit	....	....	....	....	6	3	23
Sundry articles	....	....	....	....	1	2	20
Total					13	0	3

Canned Goods.

Meat	....	....	35 tins	Vegetables	....	157 tins
Fish	....	....	160 tins	Milk....	....	55 tins
Jam and Fruit	....	....	136 tins			

(c) Adulteration of Food.

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and your Sanitary Inspectors are Sampling Officers under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts.

Observations regarding the requirements of the Food and Drugs Acts, Regulations and Orders, were kept, and 30 informal and 10 formal samples were taken and submitted to the County Analyst.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained, and disposal has continued to be at the former sand pit at Southworth Road.

Three vehicles, one Shelvoke & Drewry, and two Dennis, each of 10 cu. yard capacity are employed on collection work, and, a three-wheeled Moto-cart was purchased for conveying soil for covering purposes on the tip.

Salvage collections continued and the amounts of various materials collected showed an increase over 1947 of the following:—

						Tons	cwts.	qrs.
Paper	....	....	....	....	....	7	2	0
Rags	....	....	...	....	....	0	16	3
Ferrous Metals....		....	....	....	....	0	1	0
Glass Cullet	....	....	....	....	....	3	3	0
Bones	....	....	....	....	....	0	3	3
String	....	....	....	....	....	0	2	0

Materials Salvaged during Year.

Material.	Weight.					Income.		
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.			£	s.	d.
Paper	109	14	0	....	766	13 5
Bottles—82 doz.	0	9	0	0	....	2	8 0
Jars—241 doz.	1	4	0	0	....	4	0 9
Rags	2	7	3	....	23	17	6
Ferrous Metals	1	19	0	....	4	17	6
Non-ferrous metals....		0	5	3	....	4	12	0
Glass cullet....	10	0	0	....	10	0	11
Bones	0	12	2	....	3	5	7
String	0	4	0	....	2	0	0
Total						....	£821	15 8

4. Infectious Diseases—Control.

Enquiries were made upon notification. Disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. In other cases rooms were dealt with only on request.

Visits by Inspectors	....	....	....	....	72
Disinfections	....	....	....	....	30

5. Vermin Control.

No. of houses found to be infested—		
(a) Council houses	....	8
(b) Other houses	....	12
No. of visits to verminous premises	....	85
No. of verminous premises treated	....	34

Treatment was carried out using liquid insecticide containing D.D.T.; powder containing D.D.T. or Gammexane ; and/or fumigation by Gammexane smoke generators. Excellent results were obtained but it was found that, in the absence of the quick “ knock down ” properties of other insecticides, particularly those with a base of Pyrethrum, occupiers have little faith in D.D.T. This is perhaps fortunate, in that the advice given to tenants, including stress on their own efforts to prevent re-infestation, is of more effect than if they were placing reliance on the disinfestants used by the Department. At the same time the absence of visible signs of the effects is often a disadvantage in assessing the success of any treatment.

6. Rodent Control.

One rodent operative is employed on this work and the Ministry's recommended methods of block control and disinfestation are employed.

The number of infestations found and treated was :—

Dwelling houses	....	....	....	....	19
Business premises	....	....	....	....	27
					—
Total	....	....	....	....	46
					—

A charge is made for the treatment of business premises but there is a free service for dwelling houses.

Two firms with premises within the District have arranged for inspections to be made at regular intervals, and for treatment to be carried out when necessary.

The sewers of the district were treated twice and the Council's sewage disposal works and refuse tip were baited regularly.

Treatment of Sewers.	Treatment No. 6.	Treatment No. 7.
Total number of manholes	530	530
Dates of treatment	3rd to 17 May	1st to 13th Nov.
Bait base and poison used	Sausage rusk and zinc phosphide	
Number of manholes baited *	88	153
Number of manholes showing take of bait	58	67
Number of manholes showing complete take	28	45
Number of manholes test baited and not included at *	62	Nil
Scheme of baiting	Consecutive days.	

7. Statistical Summary of Inspections Made, Notices Served, etc.

Complaints received and investigated 405

Analysis of Visits Made.

(a) General Sanitation.

Water supply	....	....	....	....	27
Drainage	....	....	....	....	264
Stables and Piggeries	....	....	....	....	12
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	42
Common Lodging Houses	....	....	....	....	6
Factories	....	....	....	....	35
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	13
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	5
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	....	....	125
Licensed houses	....	....	....	....	3
Shops	....	....	....	....	59
Schools	....	....	....	....	24
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	57
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	34
Total	....	....	....	....	706

(b) Housing.

Under Public Health Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	386
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	813

Under Housing Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	15
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	28

Overcrowding.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	155
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	164

Verminous Premises.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	30
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	55

Miscellaneous Housing Visits

(including Points Scheme)	270
---------------------------	------	------	-----

Total 1916

(c) Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	....	....	....	72
Visits re disinfections	....	....	....	11
Total	....	....	....	83

(d) **Meat and Food Inspection.**

Inspection of meat--slaughtering	....	....	10
Inspection of meat--shops and stalls	....	....	12
Visits to butchers	....	....	18
Fishmongers, etc.	....	....	3
Grocers	....	....	29
Greengrocers and fruiterers	....	....	9
Cowsheds	....	....	25
Dairies and milk shops	....	....	25
Ice Cream premises	....	....	26
Food preparing premises	....	....	18
Market Stalls	....	....	613
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	....	....	7
Restaurants	....	....	7

Visits in connection with Sampling.

Milk--Bacteriological	....	....	32
Milk--Tubercle bacilli	....	....	35
Food and Drugs Samples	....	....	40
Water Sampling	....	....	39

Total 948

Total inspections and visits.... 3653

Notices Served.

No. of informal notices served	263
No. of informal notices complied with	....	....	235
No. of statutory notices served	....	....	7
No. of statutory notices complied with	....	....	2

Analysis of Defects noted and remedied.

Type of Defect.	Recorded.	Remedied.
Choked drains, etc.	34	35
Dustbins	41	34
Paving of yards and passages	4	8
Water supply	12	11
Roofs	40	54
Eavesgutters	27	39
Downspouts	10	29
Brickwork and/or pointing	41	62
Chimneys and Flues	10	11
Plastering	130	93
Floors	44	42
Windows	50	27
Doors and /or frames	17	8
Fireplaces	70	40
Woodwork	1	3

Washing accommodation	....	13	....	11
Sinks, etc.	....	19	....	24
W.C.s, Basins, etc.	....	60	....	57
Miscellaneous	....	51	....	44
Total	....	674	....	589

8. Ambulance Service.

Warrington C.B. provided ambulance facilities for infectious cases. The Council maintained two ambulances for general cases until 5th July, when the County Council assumed responsibility. Thereafter the Council continued to run the service as agents and also undertook the removal of all cases, both infectious and non-infectious, in the area of Haydock U.D.

During the later half of the year the number of calls was almost double that of the first half and the demands on the staff and particularly on the one full-time ambulance driver, was terrific.

Fortunately it was possible to obtain relief ambulances from other districts when necessary.

Number of Cases Moved.

(a) 1st January to 5th July.

County District.	Number of Cases Moved				
	Emergency	I.D.	Others	Total	Mileage
Newton-le-Willows U.D.	47	—	523	570	4687
Haydock U.D.	3	—	—	3	31
Warrington R.D.	3	—	6	9	56
Total	53	—	529	582	4774
(b) 5th July to 31st Dec.					
Newton-le-Willows U.D.	33	—	788	821	7383
Haydock U.D.	28	15	105	238	2949
Warrington R.D.	4	—	10	23	221
Golborne U.D.	3	—	3	6	93
Total	68	15	1005	1088	10646

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

